

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

J. D. DUNSHEE, M.D., Director

## Weekly Bulletin

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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## *Legal Opinion on Right to Examine Vital Statistics Records*

Attorney General U. S. Webb, upon request of the Director of Public Health, has handed down an opinion relative to the right to refuse individuals permission to make personal searches of records filed in the Bureau of Vital Statistics. His opinion reads, in part, as follows:

"An officer charged with the custody of public records is not required to permit members of the general public to personally examine a vital statistic record merely because of a request by such type of person. As is said in 34 Cyc. 592, 595:

'An officer having the custody of public records is entitled to exercise a reasonable discretion in making regulations in regard to the inspection and use thereof, such as in regard to the hours during which the inspection may be made, or which are proper for the purpose of securing the safety of such records. It is also a reasonable regulation to require persons using records for the purpose of making abstracts therefrom to pay a fee for providing additional office facilities, or to require an attorney desiring to inspect records in the interest of a client to produce satisfactory evidence of his authority, and such officer may also exclude from his office persons who conduct themselves in an improper or disorderly manner.'

The correct preservation of vital statistical records is important and the obligation of preventing mutilation thereof rests on the person charged with the care of such a record.

If a member of the public desired to see a particular record, it is my view, as expressed in our opinion Number 8414, addressed to you under date of January 9, 1933, that they should, under proper supervision, be afforded the opportunity

of so doing. Particularly is the latter true since the amendments in 1933 of sections 7 and 14 of the Vital Statistics Act, which now provide that marriage, birth and death records are 'necessary for the legal, social, statistical and sanitary purposes subserved by registration records.'

Notwithstanding the above, the right to examine public records must not be abused. A limitation of time to examine a document, or personnel to render the service, will in many instances be necessary so that other persons desiring information or assistance may be afforded that information which they seek. The act of 1905, relating to the registration of deaths (Stats. 1905, p. 115, as amended) and the act of 1915, relating to the recordation of marriages, births and deaths (Stats. 1915 and 1929, as amended) provide for the payment of a (one dollar) fee for each hour or fractional part of an hour employed in a search of records when no certified copy of a record is made. The act requires that State and local registrars account for moneys received by them, and by proviso excepts from payment the United States Census and Veterans Bureaus, who are permitted to obtain 'without expense to the State, transcripts of births and deaths without the payment of the fees' therein prescribed.

The effect of this language is to require registrars to collect fees where the service performed by them is in the nature of a search, and is not a general service to the public. What is a service and what is a search is a question of fact to be determined in each instance.

Registrars are not required to permit members of the general public to examine vital statistic records without proper supervision."



## SAN FRANCISCO CONDUCTS NUTRITIONAL SURVEY

By PAUL S. BARRETT, M.D., Director, Bureau of Child Hygiene,  
San Francisco Department of Public Health

On March 1, the San Francisco Health Department, Dr. J. C. Geiger, Director, inaugurated a survey of the nutritional status of children whose families are on relief. This is a joint project of the Emergency Relief Committee, the State Department of Public Health and the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Examinations are conducted in the central office of the city health department, in its two branch offices in the Alemany and Mission districts and Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Association. The Emergency Relief Committee is furnishing the physicians, the State Department of Health is furnishing the nurses through the C. W. S., and the clerical staff is furnished directly through the C. W. S.

The examination includes height and weight and an estimation of posture and muscle tone. In addition, an effort will be made to estimate the normal weight in proportion to body build by taking the width of the iliac crest together with the age and height and comparing it with the tables as furnished by Pryor and Stolz.\* In addition a comprehensive physical examination is done and the physical defects recorded on a card and also in duplicate on blanks from the Emergency Relief Committee. For all medical defects other than communicable diseases, the original blank is given to the parent with instructions to see the relief visitor and the duplicate is sent to the relief committee for checking. For communicable skin diseases the original is sent direct to the school nurse through the health department, and the duplicate is sent to the relief committee for their information.

While the purpose of the survey is primarily to determine the extent of faulty nutrition among children, it is expected that the work will be of considerable educational value in calling to the attention of parents the need of regular health supervision and correction of defects.

The survey will consume about six weeks time and will be repeated in approximately six months. By the second examination it is hoped to determine whether there is an increase or decrease in the nutritional status in the population as measured by the health of children.

In all periods, science has been advanced by individuals, never by the spirit of the age. The spirit of the age condemned Socrates to hemlock and burned Huss.—Vaungenargues.

\* Jour. Ped. Vol. III, No. 4, Oct. 3, 1933.

## DOCTOR CHURCH APPOINTS DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICERS

Dr. I. O. Church, Health Officer of Alameda County, has developed definite plans for improving the administration of public health affairs in the rural districts of Alameda County. District Health Officers, three of whom are Health Officers of cities, have been appointed to serve the rural territory surrounding the municipal territory under their jurisdiction.

Dr. Luther Michael has been appointed District Health Officer to serve the city of San Leandro and a large part of the unincorporated territory which surrounds that city. Under a contract with the County Health Department, the trustees have transferred the administration of San Leandro's City Health Department to the county. Dr. Michael, who has been Health Officer of San Leandro for almost a quarter of a century, is now Health Officer over a much wider territory, his duties having expanded under the new arrangement.

Dr. Paul Dolan, City Health Officer of Livermore, has been appointed to serve the rural district of Murray Township, within which Livermore is located. Dr. Richard Heinz, City Health Officer of Pleasanton, has been appointed as District Health Officer for Pleasanton Township, within which Pleasanton is located.

Dr. E. M. Grimmer of Irvington has been made District Health Officer for all of Washington Township. Dr. J. A. Azevedo, formerly County Health Officer, has been appointed District Health Officer to serve that portion of Eden Township which surrounds the city of Hayward. Dr. Nelson E. Clemens is still City Health Officer of Hayward. All of these District Health Officers are serving the County Health Department without financial reimbursement. This is of great assistance to the County Health Officer and constitutes a fine public service.

## NOTICE TO APPLICANTS FOR SANITARY ENGINEERING PERMITS

In order to allow sufficient time for the reviewing of applications for permits for sanitary engineering projects, the State Board of Public Health, at its regular meeting held March 17, 1934, passed the following resolution:

*"Resolved, That, except in cases of emergency, applications, plans and reports on sanitary engineering matters to come before the board, be required to be presented to the board at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting to permit review and report by the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering prior to the meeting of the board."*



## SAN JOSE ISSUES HEALTH REPORT

Dr. H. C. Brown, City Health Officer of San Jose, has issued the annual report of the San Jose Health Department for the year 1933. It is interesting, well arranged, artistically printed and contains valuable data pertaining to the public health of the city. Tabulations of vital statistics are compiled with proper adjustments relative to place of residence. It is interesting to note that last year 525 births occurred in San Jose, 201 of which were to nonresident mothers. On the other hand, 429 births occurred to San Jose mothers outside of San Jose. The actual number of births to residents of the city was 753, providing an adjusted rate of 11.7, as compared with a crude rate of 8.3. The difference is accountable largely to the location of the county hospital outside of the city limits.

The incidence of communicable disease was very low in San Jose last year. The most significant feature in the morbidity was the appearance of 87 cases of smallpox due to the appearance of this disease among itinerant laborers and campers. Complete reports are included of the activities of the school health department, division of milk and dairy inspection, division of foods, meats and abattoirs, division of sanitation, division of plumbing and laboratories.

The per capita cost for the San Jose City Health Department last year was 42 cents per capita. The total expenditure of \$26,000 was offset in part through revenue of \$7,300 from permits issued under city ordinances. The net cost of the department was \$18,700. The estimated population of San Jose is 63,050.

## EXAMINATION FOR TECHNICIANS ANNOUNCED

The regular spring examination for laboratory technicians will be held during the first week in May. Announcement of the exact date and place will be sent to all whose applications are on file. Completed applications must be mailed as soon as possible and in any event not later than April 28. Forms may be obtained by writing to the State Bureau of Laboratories, University of California, Berkeley.

## NEW HEALTH OFFICER AT SELMA

Raymond R. Scott, M.D., has been appointed city health officer of Selma to succeed D. V. Wiebe, M.D.

A person who is well will work and find enjoyment in it.

## GUIDING THE ADOLESCENT

The Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has issued a new bureau publication (number 225) entitled "Guiding the Adolescent," by D. A. Thom, M.D., Director of the Division of Mental Hygiene in the Massachusetts Department of Mental Diseases and Director of the Boston Habit Clinics. This publication is of great value to parents of adolescents and to public health nurses who are employed in school nursing among students of high school age. Parents will find Dr. Thom's recommendations particularly helpful.

## CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### DISEASES REPORTABLE IN CALIFORNIA REPORTABLE ONLY

ANTHRAX	MALARIA*
BERIBERI	PELLAGRA
BOTULISM	PNEUMONIA (Lobar)
COCCIDIOIDAL GRANU- LOMA	RELAPSING FEVER
DENGUE*	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER
FLUKE INFECTION	SEPTIC SORE THROAT
FOOD POISONING	TETANUS
GLANDERS***	TRICHINOSIS
HOO KWORM	TULAREMIA
JAUNDICE (Infectious)	UNDULANT FEVER

### ISOLATION OF PATIENT

CHICKENPOX**	OPHTHALMIA NEONA- TORUM
DYSENTERY (Amoebic)	PSITTACOSIS
DYSENTERY (Bacillary)	RABIES (Animal)**
ERYSIPELAS	RABIES (Human)
GERMAN MEASLES**	SYPHILIS
GONOCOCCUS INFECTION	TRACHOMA
INFLUENZA	TUBERCULOSIS
MEASLES**	WHOOPING COUGH**
MUMPS**	

### QUARANTINABLE

CHOLERA***	SCARLET FEVER
DIPHTHERIA	SMALLPOX
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)	TYPHOID AND PARA- TYPHOID FEVER
LEPROSY	TYPHUS FEVER
MENINGITIS (Epidemic)	YELLOW FEVER***
PLAGUE***	
ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS	

\* Patient should be kept in mosquito-free room.

\*\* Nonimmune contacts isolated also.

\*\*\* Cases to be reported to State Department of Public Health by telephone or telegraph and special instructions will be issued.

## MORBIDITY\*

### Chickenpox

654 cases of chickenpox have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 9, Alameda 1, Albany 1, Berkeley 11, Oakland 38, San Leandro 1, Contra Costa County 3, Pittsburg 2, Fresno County 6, Fresno 8, Los Angeles County 52, Alhambra 5, Avalon 1, Beverly Hills 12, Burbank 9, El Monte 2, Glendale 16, Huntington Park 7, Long Beach 15, Los Angeles 128, Monrovia 14, Pasadena 38, San Gabriel 1, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 4, Whittier 6, South Gate 9, Maywood 1, Bell 3, Madera County 1, Madera 2, Ross 1, Fort Bragg 3, Monterey County 1, King City 3, Orange County 6, Santa Ana 1, Seal Beach 3, Riverside County 1, Riverside 12,

\* Complete reports for above diseases for the week ending March 24, 1934.



Sacramento 10, Redlands 1, San Diego County 10, Escondido 1, National City 8, San Diego 4, San Francisco 89, San Joaquin County 6, Lodi 1, Manteca 3, Stockton 21, San Luis Obispo County 10, Arroyo Grande 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Burlingame 1, South San Francisco 1, Lompoc 3, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 3, Mountain View 3, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 5, Shasta County 3, Benicia 6, Cloverdale 1, Ventura County 7, Fillmore 3, Santa Paula 2, Marysville 9.

#### Diphtheria

43 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 6, Los Angeles 22, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, Monterey County 1, Plumas County 1, San Bernardino 2, San Francisco 6, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara 1, Sonoma County 1.

#### German Measles

236 cases of German measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 2, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 2, Sanger 11, Callexico 1, Kern County 33, Los Angeles County 28, Alhambra 8, Burbank 1, El Monte 2, La Verne 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 84, Montebello 1, Pasadena 5, Pomona 9, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 2, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 4, West Covina 1, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 2, Madera County 1, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 3, La Habra 2, Riverside County 5, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 2, Stockton 2, Shasta County 2, Tulare County 4, Visalia 1, Sonoma 1.

#### Influenza

45 cases of influenza have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Kern County 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 4, Claremont 2, La Verne 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 21, Pomona 2, Brea 3, San Francisco 3, Sierra County 1, Tulare County 1.

#### Measles

1224 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 11, Alameda 128, Albany 4, Berkeley 37, Emeryville 5, Hayward 7, Oakland 234, Piedmont 8, San Leandro 11, Jackson 1, Oroville 1, Contra Costa County 7, Concord 1, Pittsburg 1, Richmond 7, Fresno 4, Imperial County 4, Callexico 2, El Centro 3, Holtville 1, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Hanford 2, Susanville 27, Los Angeles County 13, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 1, Compton 4, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 9, Los Angeles 70, Pasadena 1, Pomona 8, San Fernando 3, Santa Monica 2, Whittier 11, South Gate 1, Los Banos 2, Orange County 3, Santa Ana 2, Plumas County 7, Riverside County 3, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino County 2, Redlands 2, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 18, Chula Vista 5, Coronado 4, La Mesa 19, National City 7, Oceanside 2, San Diego 157, San Francisco 118, San Joaquin County 2, San Luis Obispo County 4, Daly City 5, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara County 43, Santa Barbara 98, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Siskiyou County 1, Stanislaus County 3, Ventura County 62, Fillmore 3, Santa Paula 6, Yolo County 1, Davis 1, Woodland 1.

#### Mumps

577 cases of mumps have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 4, Alameda 6, Berkeley 5, Emeryville 1, Oakland 61, Piedmont 4, San Leandro 5, Contra Costa County 2, Kern County 14, Hanford 1, Lemoore 5, Los Angeles County 12, Avalon 15, Burbank 1, Glendale 16, Los Angeles 15, Pasadena 5, Pomona 9, Whittier 23, Lynwood 1, South Gate 2, Monterey County 1, Orange County 32, Anaheim 11, Huntington Beach 2, Orange 1, Santa Ana 11, Tustin 8, Plumas County 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 4, San Diego 1, San Francisco 232, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 6, San Luis Obispo County 3, Daly City 14, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Clara County 1, Mountain View 14, San Jose 2, Santa Clara 2, Santa Cruz County 1, Watsonville 3, Shasta County 2, Sonoma County 2, Petaluma 1, Stanislaus County 1, Yolo County 3, Winters 3.

#### Pneumonia (Lobar)

74 cases of lobar pneumonia have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 3, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 7, Avalon 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 29, Montebello 1, Pasadena 4, Pomona 1, Torrance 2, Madera 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 6, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 2, Arroyo Grande 1, Paso Robles 2, Santa Barbara 1, Vallejo 1.

#### Scarlet Fever

226 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 7, Angels Camp 1, Contra Costa County 1, Pinole 1, Pittsburg 1, Fresno County 7, Fresno 3, Glenn County 1, Imperial County 4, Kern County 6, Los Angeles County 28, Alhambra 1, Glendora 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 46, Manhattan 1, Pasadena 3, Pomona 4, Redondo 3, Santa Monica 3, Lynwood 1, Monterey Park 2, Maywood 1, Bell 1, Monterey County 1, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, Laguna Beach 1, Riverside County 2, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 5, Ontario 1, Redlands 10, San Bernardino 4, Chula Vista 1, La Mesa 1, San Diego 13, San Francisco 8, San Joaquin County 6, Stockton

9, Burlingame 1, Santa Barbara County 3, Lompoc 2, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 1, Shasta County 7, Stanislaus County 3, Modesto 1, Tulare County 1, Porterville 1, Ventura County 2.

#### Smallpox

3 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Glendale 2, Alturas 1.

#### Typhoid Fever

6 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Fresno 1, Riverside County 1, San Francisco 3, California 1.\*\*

#### Whooping Cough

391 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Alameda 12, Albany 9, Berkeley 7, Oakland 33, San Leandro 5, Colusa County 2, Contra Costa County 6, Martinez 2, Richmond 1, Fresno County 4, Imperial County 12, Kern County 12, Hanford 3, Lemoore 3, Lake County 3, Los Angeles County 25, Alhambra 3, Beverly Hills 6, Compton 5, Culver City 4, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 4, Long Beach 8, Los Angeles 43, Monrovia 4, Pasadena 6, Pomona 6, San Fernando 5, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 6, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 2, Madera County 6, Madera 12, Orange County 3, Orange 6, Santa Ana 2, La Habra 6, Riverside County 4, Riverside 10, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino 3, San Diego 8, San Francisco 11, San Joaquin County 6, Stockton 17, San Luis Obispo 1, Burlingame 4, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz 1, Petaluma 1, Stanislaus County 27, Modesto 5, Red Bluff 2, Tulare County 1, Dinuba 2, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 2.

#### Meningitis (Epidemic)

2 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Auburn 1, South San Francisco 1.

#### Dysentery (Amoebic)

12 cases of amoebic dysentery have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, El Centro 2, Imperial 1, Beverly Hills 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 4, San Francisco 1, Ventura County 1.

#### Dysentery (Bacillary)

4 cases of bacillary dysentery from Sutter County have been reported.

#### Leprosy

One case of leprosy from San Francisco has been reported.

#### Poliomyelitis

7 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 4, Pasadena 1, San Diego 1.

#### Trachoma

6 cases of trachoma have been reported, as follows: Contra Costa County 1, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1, Santa Clara County 2.

#### Encephalitis (Epidemic)

One case of epidemic encephalitis from San Francisco has been reported.

#### Paratyphoid Fever

One case of paratyphoid fever from San Francisco has been reported.

#### Food Poisoning

22 cases of food poisoning from San Francisco have been reported.

#### Undulant Fever

One case of undulant fever from Pomona has been reported.

#### Tularemia

One case of tularemia from Placer County has been reported.

#### Coccidioidal Granuloma

6 cases of coccidioidal granuloma have been reported, as follows: Kern County 4, Los Angeles 1, Tulare County 1.

#### Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)

5 cases of epidemic septic sore throat have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Kern County 3, Sonoma County 1.

#### Rabies in Animals

22 cases of rabies in animals have been reported, as follows: Imperial County 1, Los Angeles County 3, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 7, Santa Monica 2, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 1, San Diego 3, Manteca 1, Stockton 1, Stanislaus County 1.

\*\*Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.